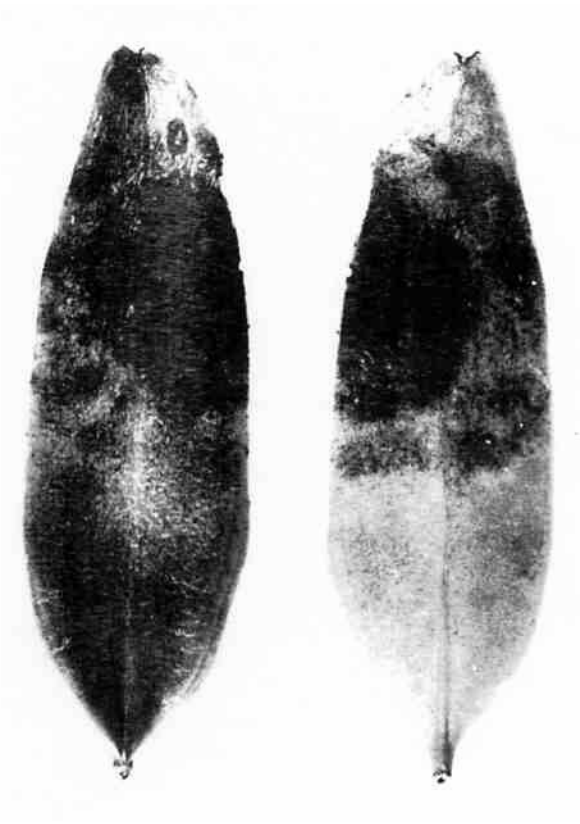


LEAFSPOT, CERCOSPORA ODONTOGLOSSI PRILLIEUX AND DELACROIS

Harry C. Burnett

This fungus disease of orchids was described in Plant Pathology Circular No. 26, June 1964. At that time, only a few nearly mature Cattleya-type orchids were found infected, and it was then thought to be primarily a disease of young orchids of community pot or 2-inch pot size. Since then, nearly mature and mature Cattleya-type orchids have been found infected in Ft. Myers, Winter Haven, West Palm Beach, Miami, Boynton Beach, and Homestead, Florida.



SYMPTOMS

For symptoms of this disease on small seedlings, see Plant Pathology Circular No. 24. On leaves of nearly mature and mature Cattleya-type orchids, the symptoms are as follows: The first symptom is noted on the underside of the leaves as a circular, yellow area. This spot will continue to enlarge until it becomes 1/2 to 2 inches or more in diameter. Eventually the whole spot becomes sunken and purple-brown in color with the exception of the advancing margin which is yellow. In time, the corresponding upper surface becomes sunken and purple-brown in color (Fig. 1).

Figure 1.

Leafspot, *Cercospora odontoglossi* Prillieux and Delacrois, on upper (left) and lower (right) leaf surface of *Brassolaeliocattleya* x *Ethel McBroom*.

CONTROL

Benomyl has given outstanding results in controlling this disease. A sticker should be used with the fungicide, and care taken to get good coverage of under surface of leaves. Cut off and destroy all leaves showing infection. Isolate infected plants from all nearby Cattleya-type orchids.